

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, WA, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE AFFIRM UNCHANGED POSITION ON NAMIBIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUMMARY: FOLLOWING AFP REPORT
SUGGESTING THAT SENEGAL WAS SENDING FACT-FINDING MISSION
TO NAMIBIA IN "BREAKTHROUGH" FOR TURNHALLE ALLIANCE,
SENEGALESE HAVE ISSUED STATEMENT REAFFIRMING CONSTANCY OF
SUPPORT FOR SWAPO AND OPPOSITION TO TURNHALLE CONFERENCE,
BUT CALLING FOR MULTI-RACIAL STATE IN NAMIBIA AND RESERVING
RIGHT TO INFORM THEMSELVES BY ANY MEANS THEY JUDGE OPPORTUNE
ON NAMIBIAN SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 23 AFP DISPATCH FROM JOHANNESBURG REPORTED
STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN PROFESSOR BAREND VAN NIEKERK
THAT SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE
TO SEND FACT-FINDING MISSION TO NAMIBIA. VAN NIEKERK
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REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT MISSION'S EXPECTED JULY VISIT
WOULD REPRESENT BREAKTHROUGH FOR TURNHALLE ALLIANCE IN
DIPLOMATIC COUNTER OFFENSIVE AGAINST SWAPO. VAN NIEKERK
SAID SENEGAL SOUGHT TO HELP PREVENT "ANGOLAN TYPE SITUATION"
FROM DEVELOPING IN NAMIBIA.

3. APRIL 25 DAKAR PRESS CARRIED STATEMENT BY SENEGALESE

PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF RESPONDING TO "CONFUSIONNISTE" REPORT, WHICH IT TRACED TO PRESS COMMUNSPUE DISTRIBUTED BY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT "TO TRY TO SOW CONFUSION" AT OPENING OF SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON NAMIBIA. STATEMENT SAYS SOUTH AFRICA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENGHOR AND VAN NIEKERK, "A SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERAL, WHO PRONOUNCES HIMSELF FIRMLY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID." IT ASSERTS THAT FOLLOWING SENEGALESE POSITION ON NAMIBIA HAS NOT VARIED: 1) SENEGAL HAS ALWAYS DENOUNCED ILLEGAL SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE AND VIGOROUSLY DEMANDED ITS WITHDRAWAL; 2) SENEGAL CONSIDERS SWAPO AS THE AUTHENTIC AND SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE AND EXTENDS EXCEPTIONAL PRIVILEGES TO SWAPO'S DAKAR OFFICE; 3) 1976 DAKAR CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACCEPTED PROPOSALS BY SENGHOR TO OBSERVE NAMIBIAN SOLIDARITY WEEK EACH OCTOBER 26 AND CREATE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR AID TO NAMIBIANS; 4) SENEGAL HAS ALWAYS DENOUNCED ILLEGITIMACY OF ALLEGED TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WHOSE PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT FREELY ELECTED UNDER UN CONTROL; 5) FINALLY, IT IS AT THE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR THAT THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION IS TAKING PLACE.

4. STATEMENT CONTINUED: "IT IS APPROPRIATE NOW TO UNDERSCORE THAT THE SENEGALESE POSITION, THUS REITERATED, DOES NOT PREVENT OUR COUNTRY FROM RECOMMENDING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CREATION OF A MULTI-RACIAL STATE IN NAMIBIA," WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH SWAPO POSITION. "SENEGAL IS FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF THE PARTICIPATION, WHEN THE MOMENT COMES, OF ALL THE NAMIBIANS, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL LABEL AND WHATEVER THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN IN THE EXERCISE BY THEIR PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS RIGHT MUST BE EXERCISED UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE UN, AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY A FOREIGN POWER."

5. STATEMENT CONCLUDED: "THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL, OF COURSE, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INFORM ITSELF BY SUCH MEANS AS IT JUDGES OPPORTUNE ON THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, NOTABLY IN NAMIBIA, IN ORDER TO MAKE UP ITS MIND IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS POSED IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD." END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. COMMENT: SIGNIFICANTLY, STATEMENT DID NOT DENY THAT SENGHOR WAS CONSIDERING NAMIBIAN FACT-FINDING MISSION. SENEGAL'S SUPPORT FOR SWAPO (AS WELL AS FOR EFFORTS OF WESTERN CONTACT GROUP) HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED, BUT STRONG COMMITMENT TO MULTI-RACIAL NAMIBIAN STATE IS CONSISTENT WITH SENGHOR'S OVERALL APPROACH TO SOUTHERN

AFRICA. SENGHOR IS FIRM BELIEVER (AS REITERATED IN RECENT
JEUNE AFRIQUE INTERVIEW--77 DAKAR 8447) THAT "SOUTH
AFRICAN WHITES HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE NEGRO AFRICANS,"
AND THAT "IT IS NECESSARY TO HELP THE (WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN)
LIBERALS," SUCH AS COLIN EGLIN OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY, WITH
WHOM SENGHOR HAS REQUENT CONTACT. IDEA OF FACT-FINDING
MISSION TO NAMIBIA IS REMINISCENT OF SENGHOR'S PROPOSAL OF
SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO SEND JURISTS' MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA,
WHICH PRIME MINISLER VORSTER EARNED SENGHOR'S LASTING IRE
BY SPRUNING; SENGHOR HAS SINCE REGULARLY ENDORSED OAU
POSITION THAT ANY "DIALOGUE" WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
MUST BEGIN INTERNALLY WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE DEFENDING
HIS OWN CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH LIBERAL COMMUNITY. I
WILL QUERY SENGHOR ON STATUS OF REPORTED FACT-FINDING
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MISSION DURING OUR FIRST MEETING AFTER HIS RETURN FROM IRAN
AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.
COHEN

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